

CULTURAL FEAST

Exhibitions
Artist: Aminul Islam
Venue: Shilpagan Gallery, House 25, Road 5, Dhanmondi
Date: March 18-April 10, from 10am to 1pm and 5pm to 8pm

16th National Art Exhibition
Artists: Eminent and promising artists of the country
Venue: National Art Gallery, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 12-April 11, 1am to 7pm and 3pm to 8pm on weekends

Bangladesh Denmark Cultural Exchange
Organiser: Royal Danish Embassy, Bangladesh and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Occasion: Birth Bicentennial of Hans Christian Andersen
Date: March 17-April 12, at 7pm everyday
Schedule: April 07-08

Programme: Staging of the play The Emperor's New Clothes by Theatre
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, National Theatre April 09-10

Programme: Staging of the play Nightingale and Ugly Duckling by Puppet Theatre
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Experimental Theatre April 12
Programme: Screening of the movie Move Me
Venue: The British Council

Yuri Gagarin Science Fest-2005

Programme: Photo exhibition and quiz competition in cooperation with Bangladesh Astronomical Association
Venue: Russian Centre of Science and Culture, House 510, Road 7, Dhanmondi
Time: April 06-12

Musical Evening

Artists: Kiran Chandra Roy, Chandana Majumdar
Organiser: Orchestra
Venue: All Community Club Hall, House 40, Road 35, Gulshan 2, Dhaka
Time: April 14, at 7:00pm

Artiste: Samina Chowdhury
Organiser: Fusion
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpa Academy Auditorium
Time: April 08, at 5:30pm

Folk Festival

Organiser: Music and Dance Department, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Plaza
Time: April 06-10, at 5pm everyday

Cultural Programme

Organiser: Mahanagar Sharbojanin Puja Committee
Venue: Dhakeshwari Mandir, Lalbag
Time: April 08, at 10am

Play

Title: Mousetrap
Group: Padatik Natya Sangsad
Venue: Mahila Shamiti Auditorium
Time: April 08, at 7pm

Title: Three Sisters
Group: Dramatics Department of DU
Venue: Nat Mandal Auditorium, DU
Time: April 03-09, at 6:30pm

Tete-a-tete

"The focus of TV plays today is on glamour" -- Shanta

NOVERA DEEPTA

THEATRE audiences in Bangladesh will find it difficult to forget the character of Zinat Mahal in the play Juddha Ebong Juddha, whose husband sacrifices his life during the Liberation War. In agony because of the reinstatement of the collaborators of the Liberation War, she has to take an unexpected decision. As a symbol of protest against the prevailing hostile situation, Zinat Mahal decides to marry a betrayer for whom she lost her husband.

The actress who portrayed the character successfully is Shanta Islam. Born and brought up in Sylhet, Shanta started her acting career when she was studying in Dhaka University. She entered the theatre and television media in 1985. The eminent theatre personalities Ferdousy Majumdar, Pijush Bandyopadhyay and Ramendu Majumdar inspired her to act on stage. They were the regular judges of the drama competitions held at Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University.

But she initially refrained from joining theatre since there was a rule of returning to the hall by evening. In theatre, people have to work late at night for rehearsals. Eventually, she joined the theatre group Theatre in 1983. And interestingly enough she acted in a play with a pseudonym Shanta Islam and from then on that was



Shanta Islam

the name which made her popular. Very few people know her by her real name, Najma Haque.

Shanta's debut performance on television was in the play Abhijog by Zia Ansary in which

she played the protagonist against Syed Ahsan Ali Sydney. And her career in theatre started simultaneously with the stage play Juddha Ebong Juddha that won her wide appreciation.

A series of plays on the small screen and stage followed, which made her a prominent name in the cultural arena. In 1987 Deborah Warner of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), England, chose her for the character Miranda of The Tempest when she came to Bangladesh to conduct a workshop.

Among her noteworthy performances are in Agun Mukha by Mannan Hira, which was about underground politicians. Jay Jayanti by Mamun ur Rashid and Mayur Shinghashan are also worth a mention. She received the BACHSHASH award in 2002 for the latter.

Rajkonar Golpokatha, directed by Shanta, was staged in the United States and Canada in 2004. She will travel to Italy and Dubai to stage the play based on the Liberation War this April.

Among her television performances, Jhumka, Ti Amar Bon, Rupnagar, Manush, Manusher Mukh and Mritujotsna were highly appreciated. Of late she has been making a drama serial from her own production house Shoumik Telefilms. The drama serial is a comedy about the expatriate Bangladeshis.

Shanta has acted in many films of alternative genre, such as Anyojibon for which she won the National Film Award, FI Manik's Phul nebo na asru nebo is another of her films that achieved acclaim. She has also written several books on poetry.

Far from resting on her achievements, Shanta is looking ahead. As she says, "Although I have done a diversity of roles, I am not satisfied yet."

Siddiqua's show fetches a fan following
What's cooking?

SADYA AFREEN MALLICK

"Hunger is the best sauce," goes a saying. Any food buff will vouch for the truth of this statement. Everywhere one turns to -- cook books, TV, restaurants and households -- there is a growing niche for culinary delights. In a recent trend, most mothers, while buying ornaments and expensive apparel, make it a point to buy a recipe book for their soon to be married daughter. This coincides well with the popular saying "A hearty meal is the way to a man's heart."

Among the popular TV cook shows, Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe stands out. The author Siddiqua Kabir's recipe book is a must have gourmet collection for the Bangladeshis all across the globe. It was interesting to chat with her at a party recently. Here's an excerpt from our conversation:

"The show Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe currently running on ntv, has reached its 83rd episode. The spectators will watch the 100th episode sometime around August," says Siddiqua.

"Our culture is a melting pot and a conglomeration of Portuguese, English, French, Turkish and Iranian culture. Over the years we have developed a taste which is rich in ingredients and often spicy. I make it a point to collect recipes from all over the world, suitable for our palate and acknowledge it in my gourmet collection," she says, adding that the show is "surprisingly popular amongst the young and old."

Siddiqua cites an interesting anecdote in her career. As she says, "A five-year-old boy recently came over to me at a wedding party and introduced me to his mother. I was overwhelmed to learn that he often

assists his mom in trying out new dishes, which he watches on the show. I often hear from the parents that young girls enact Sharmin (my assistant) and myself. The show has generated an interest in our culture, good housekeeping and nutritious eating habits, elements which are neglected quite often," she says.

Talking about the TV show, Siddiqua continues, "We often invite the spectators and try their

"The pancake, however, still remains an all time favourite because it's easy to prepare and filling too. The fried garlic with spinach and noodles is a new addition in my book."

"How times have changed," says Siddiqua. "The nights have been transformed into days and vice versa. Previously several occasions, such as weddings, were held by day, while now everything begins late at night. People now sleep by day and



Siddiqua and Sharmin in traditional attire preparing deshi dishes in the show

recipes as well. At times we invite a few journalists and stars from the cultural field to join in and prepare newer varieties at the show. The varied taste and scrumptious meals make it even more interesting."

Siddiqua says that Kachchi biriyani and Lal Mohan are the most popular dishes and people repeatedly want these recipes.

work till late evening. "There's more to look forward to from Siddiqua. "On Pahela Baishakh we plan to make a few delectable dishes to appease the Bangladeshi palate," she says.

So for gourmets in Bangladesh, there's an array of mouth-watering menus to try out -- and in the process titillate the taste buds of your dear ones.



(L-R) Managing Director of Laser Vision Mazharul Islam, filmmaker Tareque Masud, Catharine Masud and Chairman of Laser Vision AKM Arifur Rahaman seen at the pre-launching press show of the DVD of Matir Moina (The Clay Bird) at the British Council Auditorium on April 6. The DVD will be launched on April 16.



Bandhu Social Welfare Society organised a dance evening at the Chittagong Theatre Institute recently. The main objective of the programme was to promote awareness on HIV/AIDS.

Mughal-e-Azam stuns the western media

One of India's Biggest Blockbusters, Mughal-e-Azam that was recently released after being beautifully restored at a cost of \$1 million, has garnered praises world wide after its recent screenings in UK and USA.

For the first time an Indian film restored in colour, has been released theatrically. The world press has showered the film with positive reviews. "Waiting four decades for Mughal-e-Azam to be restored in appealing candy-colours and high quality sound has certainly been worthwhile. Retaining all its original charm, Mughal-e-Azam's theme of love, loyalty and sacrifice remain as relevant as ever. A true testament to director K Asif's vision and commitment" quotes bbc.co.uk

LA TIMES illustrates the power of the restoration: "Now Mughal-e-Azam has been lovingly coloured - not a good idea for most black-and-white classics but perfect in this particular instance."

Source, Internet



Madhubala in Mughal-e-Azam

Mona Lisa gets a new home

Leonardo da Vinci painted the Mona Lisa between 1503 and 1506.

The Mona Lisa is due to move to her new home within Paris' Louvre art gallery on Wednesday -- four years after refurbishment work began.

Leonardo da Vinci's 500-year-old masterpiece will be hung alone on a wall in the museum's Salle des Etats.

It will give the millions of people who come to see the Mona Lisa every year a better view of the painting.

The Salle des Etats has had a 4.8m euro (£3.2m) renovation to provide a suitable home for the masterpiece. It will allow visitors more room to gaze in comfort on the Mona Lisa, which will be hung alone on a false wall in an area dedicated to 16th-century Italian paintings.

The painting, which measures just 53 by 76 centimeters (21 by 30 inches), will again be hung behind non-reflective, unbreakable glass to protect it from climatic changes, camera flashes and willful damage.

Before the renovation work, visitors had to crowd around the painting which was hung in a smaller space on a wall with other works of art.

The Mona Lisa now has its own wall in the Louvre. The painting - which is the most recognised in the world - is thought to be a portrait of Lisa Gherardini, the wife of an obscure Florentine merchant Francesco del Giocondo. Cecile Scaillez, Louvre curator in charge of 16th century Italian art, said: "The painting abolishes the distance between the model and the viewer by getting rid of a foreground, which created a barrier in pictures of the time."



ing at us, which wasn't usual in the portraits of the 15th and early 16th centuries in which people were often looking away far into the distance, but she is also smiling."

Last year, curators announced a scientific study of the Mona Lisa after the thin poplar wood panel around the painting began to show signs of warping.

"On the other hand, Lisa Gherardini isn't just look-

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Pothey Pothey Chalthey Chalthey On Channel i at 10:00pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Rumana Rashid Ishita, Shahed Sharif Khan
Director: Chayanika Chowdhury



Kachher Manush On ntv at 8:20pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Subarna Mustafa, Alamgir, Azra, Priti
Director: Afsana Mimi

News Bulletin
BTB
News Headlines (Bangla) at 6:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.
CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00pm, 10:30, 12:15 am.
Teletext of BTB news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
ATH BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm
Teletext of BTB News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
TARA BANGLA
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30pm, 7:30pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News (Bangladesh) (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.
BBC WORLD
Every hour on the hour

CHANNEL i
09:30 Public Reaction
09:45 Tritiya Matra
11:00 Agora Shopping Guide
11:30 Chithi Pelam
12:00 Special Programme
12:30 Aaj Dupurey
01:00 Ebong Cinema Gan
01:25 Public Reaction
02:15 Tritiya Matra April
03:50 Banglar Gan
04:20 Shurer Mela
04:45 Sa Re Ga Ma
05:15 Janapader Khabor
05:30 RC Brain Storming
06:00 Music Plus
06:30 Amar Chhobi
07:50 Drama: Kobol Raat Hoyo Jay
08:25 Sunilk Apsara
09:35 Drama Serial: Shompuro Rangin
10:00 Drama Serial: Pothey Pothey Chalthey Chalthey
ATN BANGLA
10:30 Annodishil
11:05 Ek Dui Tin
11:35 Chanchallokar Mama
12:15 Bangla Feature Film: Milon Hobey Koto Diney
03:50 ATN Rannagar
04:25 Shunder Jiboner
05:10 Bangla Namer Desh
05:45 Islami Sewal O Jewab
06:20 Shustha Thakun
08:00 Drama Serial: Tana Foren
08:30 Drama Serial: Ek Akash Nil
09:00 Drama Serial: Krishnopokkho

Shuktopokkho
Drama Serial: Mohona Cher Deyeler Kabbo
Cinema Cinema
ntv
08:30 Aajker Shakal
Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe
Nari Gharey Bairey Priyotukh
11:30 Bangla Feature Film Drama Serial: Sporsher Bairey Kichhu Katha Kichhu Gan
03:15 Drama Serial: Sheela Shapla Kuri
04:25 Competition 2004 Mahilangan
Shubho Shondhya Horlicks Genius Bangladesh
Drama Serial: Kachher Manush
Drama Serial: Catharsis Diddarpan
HBO
8:30 Phantom Force
10:15 Body Count
12:00 Auto Focus
2:00 Urban Legend
4:00 The Big Hit
5:45 Getting There
7:30 Ballistic: Ecks Vs Sever.
9:30 Bugs
11:15 Bad Boys II
2:00 Fallen
4:30 Cinema Secrets III EP 6: Destructive Forces
5:00 Ballistic: Ecks Vs. Sever
STAR MOVIES
8:45 Rangers
10:30 Vertical Limit

12:30 Eliminator The
2:00 Psycho
3:45 Tooth
5:15 A Guy Thing
7:00 Edv
9:05 Detention
10:45 Vertical Limit
12:45 Agent Red
STAR GOLD
10:10 Sadak
10:30 TAMANNA
4:25 Kaal Dharmal
5:30 Shera
8:30 Avtar
12:05 Mard Ki Zuban
STAR PLUS
5:00 Maan
6:00 Nargis

6:30 Adventures Of Mickey
12:00 Anddonal
7:00 Disney's The
Weekenders
8:00 Hello Dollie
8:30 Dekho Magar Pyaar Se
9:00 Kasautli Zindagi Kay Milee
10:30 Kkavanyali
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Ki
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bhu Thi
11:30 Kahin To Hoga
12:00 K-Street Pall Hill
STAR WORLD
10:30 American Idol
11:30 Philly

12:30 Third Watch II
1:30 Magnum P.I.
2:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
4:30 Hollywood Squares
5:00 Whose Line Is It Anyway
5:30 Ally Mc Beal
6:30 The Simpsons
7:00 That '70s Show
7:30 Friends
8:00 Newsradio
8:30 American Idol
9:00 Growing Up Gotti
9:30 The Chronicle: News From The E
10:30 Really Caught In The Act
11:28 Star Asia Travel
11:30 Newsradio
12:00 Cover Story

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
2:00 Cheating Death
3:00 Animal Nightmares
3:30 Totally Wild
4:00 Dogs With Jobs
4:30 Backyard Science
4:50 Doc Eureka
5:00 Serious: Arctic Explorer
5:30 Seconds From Disaster
6:30 Animal Nightmares
7:30 Totally Wild
8:00 Science Of Sport
9:30 Marine Machine
10:30 Inlappol Investigates
11:30 National Geographic's Taboo

ANIMAL PLANET
12:30 Pet Nation
2:30 Growing up
4:30 Animal Miracles Always Faithful
5:30 Twisted Tales Bee
6:00 Monkey Business
6:30 The Planet's Funniest Animals
7:00 Amazing Animal Videos
7:30 Land Of The Tiger
8:30 Growing up Wild
10:30 From Cradle to Grave Kingdom Of The Lion
11:30 Wild Encounters
11:30 The Case Studies in Forensic Scie Murder for Hire
12:30 Wild Discovery
1:30 Extreme Machining
2:30 Days That Shook the World
3:30 Past Is Wild
4:30 New Detectives
5:30 Real Kids Real Adventures
6:00 Baby Story, Baby Litterell
6:30 The Dangerman
7:30 Wild Discovery Turtles: Life In A Shell
8:30 Building The Ultimate I & II Helicopters
9:00 Amazing Baby Videos Legends of the Isles
9:30 Stonehenge
10:00 Rivals Lennon Vs McCartney
10:30 Great Cars
11:00 Massive Engines With Chris Barrie Racing Cars
11:30 Great Crimes And Trials of the 20th Century

STAR SPORTS
7:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Fulham Vs Portsmouth (R)
9:30 Asian 9-Ball Tour Jakarta Hanggar Indonesia Semifinal (R)
12:30 English Premier Football League 2004/05 Southampton Vs Chelsea (T)
2:30 Asian 9-Ball Tour Jakarta Hanggar Indonesia Final(R)
4:00 Thailand Ladies Open Day Three Highlights(T)
5:00 Rugby 7s World Cup Hong Kong China Highlights(T)
6:00 Super Centuries (R)
6:30 Gillette World Sports Special 2005 (R)
7:00 The Masters Official Films 2004 (T)
8:00 Sportsline (L)
8:30 Uefa Champions League 2004/05 Chelsea Vs Bayern Munich Quart Efinal #4 Leg #1(R)
10:30 Football Crazy (S)
11:00 Football Asia (R)
12:00 Football Asia (S)
ESPN
7:00 Sri Lanka Tour Of New Zealand 1st Test Day 4(L)
11:30 Hitz (R)
12:00 Motorsport Asia (R)
1:00 Uefa Champions League 2004/05

Chelsea Vs Bayern Munich Quart Efinal #4 Leg #1(S)
English Premier Football League 2004/05 Liverpool Vs Bolton Wandeters (R)
5:00 Football Crazy (L)
6:00 Goals! (R)
6:30 Uefa Champions League 2004/05 Ac Milan Vs Inter Milan Quartarfi Nal #3 Leg #1(R)
8:30 Sportscenter India (L)
9:00 Sri Lanka Tour Of New Zealand 1st Test Day 4 Highlights(S)
10:30 Classic Boxing Rocky Marciano Vs Rex Layne/ Vs Ron Lasterza (T)
11:30 Sportscenter India (R)
12:00 Sportscenter Asia (S)
TEN SPORTS
8:00 WWE After Burn
9:00 Euro PGA HL: Indonesia Open
10:00 Indian Golf Show League 2004/05
10:30 Legends 04 : Brian Lara Chelsea Vs Bayern Munich Quart Efinal #4 Leg #1(R)
1:30 India - Pakistan Unforgettables
2:30 Caribbean Classics
4:30 History of Football
5:30 WWE: The Bottom Line
6:30 Indian Golf Show
7:00 European Tour Weekly World Rally
8:00 PSPB Open Petroleum Golf Championships
9:00 Transworld Sports
10:00 History of Football
11:00 WWE: The Bottom Line
12:00 Total Rugby